

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00596 01 OF 02 150057Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 AF-10 SAB-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /106 W
-----062813 160042Z /15 S

R 141815Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6456
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELIZE 596

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, BH, GT, UK, US, CU
SUBJECT: LUNCHEON WITH PREMIER PRICE

REF: BELIZE 588

1. DURING PLEASANT WORKING LUNCH WITH PREMIER PRICE, A NUMBER OF ISSUES WERE TOUCHED ON, INCLUDING RECENT BH UK TALKS IN NEW YORK, CUBA BELIZEAN RELATIONS, FUTURE TRAVEL PLANS OF PRICE, OVERALL BELIZE GUATEMALAN RELATIONS. ALSO PRESENT, IN ADDITION TO ECON OFFICER RALPH WALSH AND MYSELF WERE DEPUTY PREMIER ROGERS, ATT'Y. GENERAL SHOMAN, MIN TRADE PERDOMO, FIN SECRETARY FONSECA. PRICE INTRODUCED GROUP COLLECTIVELY AS COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. THIS IS PROBABLY NON-OFFICIAL GROUP BUT IS AN INTERESTING ONE. FONSECA WHO IS LEAST WIDELY KNOWN IS PERHAPS THE MOST SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT AND USUALLY CONSIDERED TO BE OF UNIMPEACHABLE HONESTY AND SERVES AS ACTING GOVERNOR IN ABSENCE MCENTEE. HE IS NOT, ACCORDING TO SANDY HUNTER, ALL THAT UNIMPEACHABLE, HOWEVER, AND IS SAID HAVE BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN SOME OIL CONCESSION HUGGER MUGGER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BELIZE 00596 01 OF 02 150057Z

2. IT WAS EVIDENT TO BOTH OF US PRICE ANXIOUS PUT ON PLEASANT, RELAXED SHOW AND HE DID SO. ALL PRESENT WERE ON BEST BEHAVIOR (SHOMAN, FOR EXAMPLE WAS QUITE SILENT AND RESERVED); ROGERS, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, WAS SECOND IN COMMAND AND SHOWED AS ABLE, THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTOR TO CONVERSATIONS.

3. UK BH TALKS IN NEW YORK WERE IMPORTANT BUT FAR FROM ONLY

TOPIC OF CONVERSATION. IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION PRICE WAS NOT AS PLEASED AT RESULTS OR METHODS AS WAS LINDO AND UDP. PRICE NOTED DR. OWEN HAD NOT PARTICIPATED FULLY BUT HAD RATHER STARTED OFF TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT SIDE AND THEN HAD GONE TO MEET WITH UDP IN ANOTHER ROOM. TWO BELIZEAN GROUPS THEN MET WITHOUT OWEN AND UNDER SUPERVISION OF GOVERNOR MCENTEE. WE FELT PRICE SLIGHTLY CHAPPED AT THIS TREATMENT ALTHOUGH HE AND ROGERS ADMITTED OWEN HAD MANY THINGS TO DO IN NEW YORK. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, PRICE SAID HE FELT ELEVATION OF ANGLE-GUATEMALA DISPUTE TO NATIONAL LEVEL AND REMOVAL FROM POLITICAL ARENA WAS MOST IMPORTANT RESULT OF CONVERSATIONS. OTHERS AT LUNCH ADDED UNANIMOUS OPINION THAT UDP WAS ALREADY VIOLATING THIS AGREEMENT (IT ALMOST CERTAIN THAT SLASHING PERSONAL ATTACK ON LINDO IN PUP BELIZE TIMES WILL LEAD OPPOSITION TO SAME CONCLUSION). PRICE FEELS PUP WAS "WINNER"; JUST AS LINDO FEELS UDP WAS. ON THE WHOLE, WE CAME AWAY FROM THIS PART OF DISCUSSION WITH FEW NEW OR DIFFERENT IMPRESSIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00596 02 OF 02 160001Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 AF-10 SAB-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /106 W
-----087810 160041Z /15 S

R 141815Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6457
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELIZE 596

4. ON US BELIZE RELATIONS, A NUMBER OF THINGS EMERGED. IT SEEMS INCREASINGLY CLEAR TO ME IN TWO MONTHS I HAVE BEEN HERE THAT THERE IS A VERY, VERY DEEP AND CLOSE FEELING IN BELIZE FOR THE US. EVEN ROGERS, GRADUATE OF LEAVENWORTH THAT HE MAY BE, APPEARS RPT APPEARS TO SHARE THIS FEELING. THERE WERE TWO INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THIS-PRICE QUIZZED ME ALMOST FORMALLY ABOUT CUBANS IN BELIZE. HE SAID HE HAD, AT REQUEST OF UK, DENIED VISAS FOR TWO CUBANS WHO WERE TO COME TO BELIZE UNDER AUSPICES OF CDCC AND ASKED ME WHAT I FELT. I SAID THIS WAS MATTER FOR PRICE; HE PRESSED ME AS TO US ATTITUDE; AND I RESPONDED ALONG LINES THAT NOT TOO LONG AGO WE HAD BEEN

ANXIOUS TO ENGAGE IN CLOSER DIALOGUE WITH CUBANS BUT THAT RECENT EVENTS IN AFRICA HAD BEEN OF VERY GENUINE CONCERN TO US. I SAID I FOR ONE COULD IN NO WAY UNDERSTAND WHAT CUBA WAS TRYING ACCOMPLISH ON THAT CONTINENT AND FELT THAT CASTRO HAD NOT GIVEN A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION. THIS NEW SITUATION, I FELT, WAS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO CAUSE US TO PAUSE IN OUR APPROACHES. IT WAS INTERESTING THAT THE BELIZEANS PRESENT DID NOT ARGUE WITH ME, ALTHOUGH TO BE SURE, ASSAD SHOMAN ALMOST CERTAINLY HOLDS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT IDEAS. NEVERTHELESS, I TOLD PRICE, IF HE IS SATISFIED THAT THE CUBAN TECHNICIANS ARE PRECISELY WHAT THEY CLAIM TO BE AND IF THEY ARE UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE CDCC, I DID NOT BELIEVE A LEGITIMATE ARGUMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BELIZE 00596 02 OF 02 160001Z

COULD BE MADE AGAINST THEIR ADMISSION ON A MISSION TO BELIZE. LATER ON, PRICE SAID HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA AND DID WE HAVE ANY FEELINGS ABOUT SUCH A TRIP. AGAIN, I SAID I DID NOT WISH TO BE CAST IN THE ROLE OF GIVING OR WITHHOLDING APPROVAL BUT SAID WE HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA; THAT TITO HAD BEEN TO THE US AND THAT HIS APPREHENSIONS SEEMED EXAGGERATED.

5. ON THE DISPUTE, PRICE FELT THERE WAS LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS. HE EXPECTED NOTHING NEW FROM LUCAS AND, AS NOTED IN REFTEL, DID NOT BELIEVE THAT VILLAGRAN, HOWEVER WELL MOTIVATED, HAD THE CLOUT TO BRING ABOUT ANY CHANGE IN GUATEMALAN ATTITUDE. I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD EVER STOPPED TO THINK THE UNTHINKABLE AND CONSIDER LAND CESSION, SUGGESTING THAT A TIDY, SURGICAL OPERATION WITH GUARANTEES MIGHT WORK. PRICE HEWED PRETTY MUCH TO HIS NOT ONE SQUARE CENTIMETER LINE ALTHOUGH ROGERS PUT FORWARD THE IDEA THAT GUARANTEES WERE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM. HOW, HE ASKED, COULD WE BE ASSURED THAT GUATEMALA WOULD BE SATISFIED AND WOULD NOT COME BACK FOR A "SECOND HELPING"? ROGERS RESPONSE RE LAND SEEMED LESS DOGMATIC THAN ONE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED. IN A WAY, PERHAPS THE MOST DISQUIETING ITEM WAS THE ASSERTION OF PRICE AND SHOMAN THAT THE SO-CALLED "MULTI-LATERAL FORCE" ISSUE WAS NOT DEAD. THEY IMPLIED THAT THEY WERE CONTINUING TO SEEK SUPPORT ON THIS MATTER AND MIGHT BROADEN IT INCLUDE COMMONWEALTH NATIONS OUTSIDE THE CARIBBEAN BASIN. IN THIS CONTEXT, BOTH WALSH AND I WERE STARTLED AT LACK OF KNOWLEDGE PRICE DEMONSTRATED ON COMMONWEALTH, ESPECIALLY AFRICA, SAYING THAT LUSAKA WAS CAPITAL OF UGANDA AND THEN CORRECTING HIMSELF TO SAY, NO, NO LUSAKA IS IN KENYA.

6. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT TO PRICE THAT I HAD BEEN MYSTIFIED ON A REPORT IN PRESS HERE THAT HE HAD SENT TELEGRAM TO TORRIJOS CONGRATULATING HIM ON ACTION OF US SENATE IN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BELIZE 00596 02 OF 02 160001Z

RATIFYING PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. I SAID I WAS PUZZLED AS TO WHY HE HAD KIND WORDS FOR PANAMANIAN LEADER AS RESULT OF ACTION BY US SENATE AND ADDED MY BELIEF THAT SENATE RATIFICATION WAS HIGHLY IMPORTANT PIECE OF COLLECTIVE STATEMENTSHIP AND LEADERSHIP DESERVING. PRICE WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY DEFENSIVE SAYING THAT TORRIJOS WAS LONG TIME FRIEND AND SUPPORTER WHOM HE WISHED TO CONGRATULATE. I ADDED THAT A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO SENATE WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE.

7. ALL IN ALL, THIS MEETING MAY HAVE BEEN MORE COSMETIC THAN SERIOUS. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS RELAXED, CHEERFUL; THE PREMIER KNOCKED BACK TWO STRONG WHISKIES BEFORE LUNCH AND HAD ANOTHER WITH HIS MEAL. THE OTHER GUESTS WERE MUTED AND CTLNITOUS. I DO NOT BELIEVE, FOR EXAMPLE THAT ANY FALSE HOPES SHOULD BE RAISED BY ROGERS' RESPONSE TO THE LAND CESSION QUESTION. IT SEEMS PERHAPS THEY WERE SOUNDING ME OUT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
NALLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BELIZE00596
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780251-0508
Format: TEL
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780662/aaaacbnl.tel
Line Count: 191
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b7acbc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BELIZE 588
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2364649
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LUNCHEON WITH PREMIER PRICE
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, PORG, BH, GT, UK, US, CU, (PRICE, GEORGE C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b7acbc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014